

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, and 14 – 26 as follows.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the usage of space in a database, comprising:  
  
storing, by a first database server, a first set of space usage data that identifies a first amount of free space associated with the database;  
  
wherein the first set of space usage data is updated, by the first database server, based on changes made to the database by the first database server;  
  
retrieving, from one or more second database servers, a second set of space usage data,  
~~wherein the first set of space usage data is updated, by the database server, based on changes made to the database by the first database server;~~  
~~retrieving, from one or more second database servers, a second set of space usage data that identifies a~~  
second amount of free space associated with the database;  
  
wherein the first set of space usage data is separate and distinct from the second set of space usage data;  
wherein the second set of space usage data is updated, by the one or more second database servers, based on changes made to the database by the one or more second database servers;  
  
updating the first set of space usage data with the second set of space usage data; and  
  
evaluating the usage of space in the database based on the updated first set of space usage data.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of space usage data and the second set of space usage data each reflect the amount of free space in one or more tablespaces that are each associated with the database.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of space usage data and the second set of space usage data each reflect the amount of free space in one or more files that are each associated with the database.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of storing the first set of space usage data comprises:  
storing ~~a subset~~ subsets of the first set of space usage data, wherein each subset of said subsets is associated with a transaction initiated by the first database server that is performed on the database.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of storing the first set of space usage data comprises:  
examining the database to generate the first set of space usage data.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the second set of space usage data comprises:  
determining that a configurable period of time has expired, wherein the configurable period of time indicates an amount of time to wait before retrieving the second set of space usage data from the one or more second database servers.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating the usage of space in the database comprises:  
determining if a tablespace in the database has exceeded a configurable threshold.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
raising an alert that indicates that the usage of space in a tablespace in the database has exceeded a configurable threshold.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
in response to the step of evaluating the usage of space in the database, scheduling space reclamation for the database.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the database is in a distributed cluster of databases.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the database is in a grid of databases.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the steps of retrieving, updating, and evaluating may be repeated in sequence after a configurable amount of time lapses since the step of evaluating was last performed.
14. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium ~~carrying~~storing one or more sequences of instructions for determining the usage of space in a database, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:  
storing, by a first database server, a first set of space usage data that identifies a first amount of free space associated with the database;

wherein the first set of space usage data is updated, by the database server, based on changes made to the database by the first database server;

retrieving, from one or more second database servers, a second set of space usage data,

~~wherein the first set of space usage data is updated, by the first database server, based on~~

~~changes made to the database by the first database server; retrieving, from one or~~

~~more second database servers, a second set of space usage data that identifies a~~

~~second amount of free space associated with the database;~~

wherein the first set of space usage data is separate and distinct from the second set of space usage data;

wherein the second set of space usage data is updated, by the one or more second

database servers, based on changes made to the database by the one or more

second database servers;

updating the first set of space usage data with the second set of space usage data; and

evaluating the usage of space in the database based on the updated first set of space usage data.

15. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the first set of space usage data and the second set of space usage data each reflect the amount of free space in one or more tablespaces that are each associated with the database.
16. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the first set of space usage data and the second set of space usage data each reflect the amount of free space in one or more files that are each associated with the database.

17. (Cancelled)
18. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the step of storing the first set of space usage data comprises:  
storing ~~a subset~~ subsets of the first set of space usage data, wherein each subset of said subsets is associated with a transaction initiated by the first database server that is performed on the database.
19. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the step of storing the first set of space usage data comprises:  
examining the database to generate the first set of space usage data.
20. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the step of retrieving the second set of space usage data comprises:  
determining that a configurable period of time has expired, wherein the configurable period of time indicates an amount of time to wait before retrieving the second set of space usage data from the one or more second database servers.
21. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the step of evaluating the usage of space in the database comprises:  
determining if a tablespace in the database has exceeded a configurable threshold.
22. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the additional step of:

raising an alert that indicates that the usage of space in a tablespace in the database has exceeded a configurable threshold.

23. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the additional step of:  
in response to the step of evaluating the usage of space in the database, scheduling space reclamation for the database.
24. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the database is in a distributed cluster of databases.
25. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the database is in a grid of databases.
26. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the steps of retrieving, updating, and evaluating may be repeated in sequence after a configurable amount of time lapses since the step of evaluating was last performed.